

Week of April 28, 2002: Maine DOT Flash Facts
Topic: Teen Driving

Monday:

Opener:

Most people know teenagers are the age group most at risk on the road. But do you know how much at risk they are? Find out after the break.

Flash Facts:

We know teenagers are high-risk drivers. But did you know that they are four times as likely as 21-40 year-olds to be in a car crash? According the MaineDOT, this means that one in four 16 and 17 year olds will be involved in a crash this year. Pass on these tips to your teenager to help make them be a safer driver:

- Changing a CD or using a cell phone may take only two seconds, but in a car going 50 mph, that's 150 feet.
- If you think that passing a car might be risky, don't take a chance.
- Driving deserves full attention at all times. Don't be distracted.

Be A Road Model: set a good example for your teenager.

Wednesday:

Opener:

You may know that car crashes are the leading cause of unintentional death for people under age 24. But do you know why most of these crashes happen? Find out after the break.

Flash Facts:

Car crashes are the leading cause of death for young people in Maine. But what causes most of these fatal crashes? Forty percent are caused by unsafe speed. The MaineDOT has some tips to help teenagers be safer on the road:

- Adjust driving speed to driving conditions. Drive slower in bad weather, at night and on unfamiliar roads.
- Slow down prior to curves and turns.
- Maintain at least a 3 second gap between you and the car ahead.

Be A Road Model: Don't speed.

Friday:**Opener:**

Driver inattention is the most common cause of crashes among teen drivers. What are common driving mistakes that result in crashes? Find out after the break.

Flash Facts:

The most common cause of car crashes among young drivers is inattention. Other factors include excessive speed, inexperience and fatigue. The MaineDOT wants you to share safety tips with your kids to help reduce crashes. Ask your teens to:

- Know their limitations. Inexperience results in improper decisions.
- Maintain a safe speed - even if it's slower than the speed limit.
- Drive with their full attention on the road.

Be A Road Model: set a good example for your teens.